

# Professional Portfolio

## Competency Statement 2

*Directions:* This Reflective Statement must relate directly to the Competency Standard II: To advance physical and intellectual competence.

The statement should be **no more** than **500 words** in length.

Begin with a paragraph describing how your teaching practices meet the Competency Standard II: To advance physical and intellectual competence. (Note: alternatively, you may also choose to write one paragraph for each Functional Area, if this makes it easier to express your thoughts more clearly.)

⇒ Be sure to save this assignment to print off and include in your **Professional Portfolio**.

### Competency Standard II: To advance physical and intellectual competence

CDA Competency Standard II	Functional Areas	Definitions
II. To advance physical and intellectual competence	4. Physical 5. Cognitive 6. Communication 7. Creative	4. Candidate uses a variety of developmentally appropriate equipment, learning experiences, and teaching strategies to promote the physical development (fine and gross motor) of all children. 5. Candidate uses a variety of developmentally appropriate learning experiences and teaching strategies to promote curiosity, reasoning, and problem solving, and to lay the foundation for all later learning. Candidate implements curriculum that promotes children's learning of important mathematics, science, technology, social studies, and other content goals. 6. Candidate uses a variety of developmentally appropriate learning experiences and teaching strategies to promote children's language and early literacy learning and help them communicate their thoughts and feelings verbally and nonverbally. Candidate helps dual-language learners make progress in understanding and speaking both English and their home language. 7. Candidate uses a variety of developmentally appropriate learning experiences and teaching strategies for children to explore music, movement, and the visual arts, and to develop and express their creative abilities.

I will use appropriate equipment, experiences and strategies to promote physical and intellectual competence of the children. Preschoolers love to explore through touch, imagination and repetition. By offering activities that serve multiple purposes, my students will develop their brains by having fun, without even realizing that the art they are doing might be teaching them STEM concepts, or that the outdoor play is developing both their large and fine motor skills.

## Professional Portfolio

I will allow my students to use their own ideas to build confidence. When kids are encouraged to use their imagination, I believe parts of their brain become open to a long-time habit of innovation and problem-solving. Not every art project needs to be a “follow the instructions exactly” project. Instruction following is important to learn, but I will allow some opportunities for kids to create their own ideas. For example, in creating a color collage, kids will choose how their art piece will look. By providing a sampling of many different textures and shapes, each art piece will truly be unique. Some kids may choose to make a pattern or a linear piece of art, developing their math and spatial awareness. Others will be completely abstract. In both, children will love the different textures.

Preschool children are developing their fine and large motor. Outdoor play is super helpful for the latter. Activities like playing with the parachute can develop both large and fine motor. Riding tricycles, playing in the sandbox, games like “Mother May I,” are all great activities. Having kids practice with crayons and markers will continue to develop fine motor skills as well. Tracing letters, drawing pictures, or using paintbrushes to watercolor, are all examples of fine motor.

Sensory tables are another great way to give kids the ability to touch. Keeping it rotated through with new items is a fun way to update a classroom each month. Whether it be rice or water, the kids always love it. It’s also a great way to tie in a theme, for example, using Easter eggs and grass in the spring. Adding a pair of tweezers to the bin can give it an extra challenge. Or keep it simple for kids that need adaptations.

I will read and sing with my students every day! This is crucial to language development and literacy and will definitely help my ELL students. It’s also fun to do a “picture walk-through” and ask the children questions. Reading the same book can be a good way to get kids familiar that need more of a routine if they have anxiety. Singing is a great mnemonic tool!

Science projects are another way to incorporate fun. Kids love hands-on activities! I will incorporate science and STEM activities that allow kids to touch, smell, listen, watch and taste! Science projects are a great activity to promote social skills by getting kids to work in teams, wait their turns, brainstorm together, etc. The kids will learn the scientific method in a group science project without even realizing it!